



Region 1
490 N. Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

**Decision Notice
and
Finding of No Significant Impact
for
Pair-A-Dice Fishing Access Site Development
May 19, 2010**

Description of the Proposed Action:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks proposes to develop the Pair-A-Dice Fishing Access Site (FAS). The property is immediately south of the town site of Paradise on State Highway 200, entering the parcel at the northeast side of the Highway 200 bridge. Pair-A-Dice FAS consists of two parcels with 4.29 acres of upland grasslands and just over 8.31 acres of recreational easement, consisting of several river channels and islands. The property contains some ponderosa pine and cottonwoods, as well as willows and shrubs, and shows use by geese and other waterfowl, shorebirds and songbirds, furbearers, and white-tailed deer. The parcel is bounded by railroad right of way on the north, Highway 200 right of way on the west, and the Clark Fork of the Columbia River on the south. Proposed development includes improving the existing approach from Highway 200 with a private commercial approach, establishing a new access road to the parking lot, boundary fencing, and adding a new concrete vault latrine and concrete boat ramp with cable mat.

Public involvement

A public scoping meeting was held on February 17, 2010. Seven people attended. Two meetings were held with Salish and Kootenai Tribal Preservation office to include cultural concerns. The public was notified in the following manners to comment on this current EA, the proposed action and alternatives:

- Two public notices in the *Sanders County Ledger*.
- One public notice in the *Helena Independent Record* and *Kalispell Daily Inter Lake*.
- One statewide press release.
- Direct mailing to adjacent landowners and interested parties.
- Public notice on the Fish, Wildlife & Parks web page: <http://fwp.mt.gov>.
- Copies were available for public review at FWP Region 1 Headquarters.

A public meeting was not requested within the comment period. The public comment period ensued for (30) thirty days. Written comments were accepted from May 7, 2010, through June 7,

2010. Following the release of this decision notice, a 30-day appeal period will be observed prior to any action being taken.

Response to Comments:

Seven written responses were received during the public comment period.

General Support of Project Proposal

Seven written responses were received, all strongly supportive of the project in general. One respondent asked that FWP consider modifications to the parking lot design to facilitate back-in or pull-through trailer parking as opposed to head-in parking spaces.

FWP Response:

FWP notes and appreciates the strong support for this project. FWP agrees that realigning designated parking spaces to accommodate back-in trailer parking would be feasible and improve parking convenience.

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI):

Based on the analysis in the EA and comments received, I find Alternative B to be the preferred alternative. Therefore, FWP will proceed with developing the Pair-A-Dice Fishing Access Site with noted design changes. I have evaluated the EA and applicable laws, regulations, and policies and have determined that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

The final EA may be viewed at or obtained from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region One, 490 N. Meridian Road, Kalispell, MT 59901, or the FWP web site at fwp.mt.gov under Recent Public Notices. The contact person for this project is Dave Bennetts, FWP Parks Management Specialist, 406-751-4590 or at dbennetts@mt.gov.

In accordance with FWP policy, an appeal may be made by any person who has either commented in writing to the department on the proposed project, or who has registered or commented orally at a public meeting held by the department on the proposed project, or who can provide new evidence that would otherwise change the proposed plan. An appeal must be submitted to the Director of FWP in writing and must be postmarked or received within 30 days of this decision notice. The appeal must describe the basis for the appeal, how the appellant has previously commented to the department or participated in the decision-making process, and how the department can provide relief. The appeal should be mailed to: Director; Fish, Wildlife & Parks; 1420 East 6th Avenue; Helena, MT 59620.



David Landstrom
Regional Parks Manager

5/19/10
Date